

Q: What is the California State Military Reserve?

A: The California State Military Reserve (CSMR) is the state defense force of California. The military reserve was formed to provide California a trained and organized military force in the event of a state security emergency when the National Guard is deployed. Its current mission is articulated in CA Military & Veteran's Code § 550:

The California State Military Reserve is authorized as a state defense force under the provisions of the Title 32, United States Code, Section 109(c) and the California State Military Reserve Act (codified in the California Military and Veterans Code).

CSMR is part of the Total Force of the California State Military Forces authorized by the Constitution of the State of California, which include the California Army National Guard, the California Air National Guard, and the California Naval Militia.

The CSMR is NOT a private militia.

Q: What does the CSMR do?

A: SMR soldiers share the same exact State mission as their National Guard counterparts, but not the Federal mission. It should be noted that Army and Air National Guard members function in their State mission capacity most of the time, only getting "federalized" during times of great emergency or war.

Q: Who can join the CSMR?

A: To enlist you must be 18 years of age or older. To be appointed as an officer you must be at least 21 years of age and a California resident. You CANNOT be a current member of the active or reserve components of the U.S. military forces. Individuals who have been convicted of a felony or who have received dishonorable discharges from the armed forces may also be excluded. Please refer to the Eligibility section at the bottom of this page.

Q: How much of my time am I obligated to give?

A: CSMR members are required to attend monthly drills. Drills (meetings) are held monthly and are usually eight (8) hours on one Saturday each month. These are used for training sessions, activity coordination, and to work with your National Guard counterparts. You are expected to make your drills, or if you cannot due to a personal hardship, call your commander and explain your situation. Repeated absences without permission will result in discharge. Your particular assignment may require additional hours of work to organize your section or staff or to complete necessary projects. These additional hours may be done at home or at your leisure.

Q: Am I eligible to apply for a State Active Duty (SAD) position?

A: When you have been in the CSMR for two years, and not assigned to the Inactive Ready Reserve, then you are eligible to apply for an SAD. Currently you can only apply, when eligible, for positions one above and one below your current rank.

Q: Do I get paid for my SMR time?

A: Generally, no. However, because the California State Military Reserve is a state military force, members are subject to call to active duty by the governor. When that happens, SMR members may be paid at the same rate of pay for their rank or grade as their National Guard counterparts. There are also missions which may allow for per diem and reimbursed expenses. However, any reimbursable expenses must be approved in advanced by your chain of command.

There is a small uniform and travel reimbursement for those soldiers that attend all 12 monthly scheduled drills.

Q: What uniform will I wear?

A: You will wear the standard Army Service Uniform or Army Combat Uniform if assigned to the Army component. You will wear the Air Force Service Uniform or the Air Force Combat Uniform if assigned to the Air Force component. The uniforms will be worn with distinctive state insignia designating you as a member of the California State Military Reserve.

These uniforms are not provided to you. CSMR members are responsible for purchasing their own uniforms and accessories.

Q: How will my rank be determined?

A: Applicants will be evaluated and appointed or enlisted to an appropriate rank based on the authorized job position (billet) the applicant will be filling within the unit, as well as on a basis of prior service, education, civilian occupation, and other factors, in accordance to California State Military Reserve regulations.

Enlisted personnel without prior military service-

E3: Basic Entry Level without a college degree

E4: Basic Entry Level with a college degree

Only Doctors, Physician Assistants, Nurses, Lawyers and Chaplains are direct commissioned into the CSMR.

Q: Are these “real” officer and enlisted ranks?

A: According to California State Law, California State Military Reserve officer and enlisted personnel normally rank amongst themselves. However, when on state active duty, SMR soldiers rank among state active duty members of the California National Guard, which includes both the Army and Air Divisions.

All appointments, commissions, warrants, and enlistments are recognized and authorized by the Governor of the State of California through the Adjutant General of the State of California. SMR members can be called to active duty, have the legal authority to command troops, and participate in real-world missions on the behalf of the Military Department of the State of California.

Q: Will I be required to pass a physical exam?

A: Applicants are required to submit a "Report of Medical History" signed by their health professional as part of the application package. Applicants are also required to meet height and weight standards (see below).

Q: When can I wear my CSMR uniform?

A: You must wear your uniform properly and only when attending drills, other CA SMR functions, or as otherwise allowed by regulations or your commander. When you are in uniform, all rules of military courtesy will be observed without exception. Any abuse of the uniform policy will result in your discharge. CSMR personnel cannot wear their uniform outside of the State of California without written permission from the Adjutant General.

Q: Will I have to swear in?

A: Yes, you will take an oath when you join and you are expected to live up to that oath. You will be representing the California State Military Reserve and this must be taken seriously.

Q: Why should I join the CSMR?

A: The California State Military Reserve is a volunteer organization that requires an obligation on the part of its members. You will serve with people who are patriotic and have a knowing respect for military preparedness. You will be carrying on a tradition of volunteer military service dating back to the creation of the United States. Last, but most challenging, you will have the opportunity to utilize the training you have had in the military and civilian life to develop and help build the cadre of the California State Military Reserve.

Q: How do I begin the application process?

A: Please complete the CSMR Interest Questionnaire after reviewing the eligibility list below and submit it to Janice.r.barnes.nfg@mail.mil

Q: Why do I have to interview for a volunteer organization?

A: This part of the application process ensures that:
The applicant is fully aware of his/her obligations as well as all aspects relating to membership in the organization; The applicant is fully qualified for membership and that there is a position available in the unit where the applicant may serve.

Q: How long does the process take?

A: The enlistment or officer appointment process will take about two months or longer if any part of your application packet is incomplete or inaccurate. There is limited full time staff and most of the process is handled by volunteers that have other full time positions. *Be advised that the State Military Reserve forms become official California Military Department documents, and any misrepresentations or omissions are subject to penalties as defined under the California Military and Veterans Code. When processing is complete and you are sworn in, you are then subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice.*

Q: When should I buy a uniform?

A: We suggest that you hold off on making any uniform purchases until your orders are published, in case there are any complications with your application packet.

Q: Do I attend drills once I turn in my packet?

A: No, according to CA SMR regulations, non-members may not participate in drill or any other official activities.

Q: If I serve with the CSMR am I considered a Veteran?

A: **NO, YOU ARE NOT A VETERAN** with CSMR service only. If you are a prior Service Member of one of the US Armed Services: Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard and have met the qualifications to be considered a Veteran than you will be considered a Veteran. CSMR affiliation in no way compliments this status. You **CANNOT** ask for Veteran Preferences based on your CSMR affiliation. Your CSMR ID Card shall not be used to claim Veteran's benefits.

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for enlistment or appointment in the California State Military Reserve, an applicant must be:

- 18 years of age for enlistment or 21 for appointment as an officer
- be a citizen of the U.S. (or have declared intent to become a citizen) and reside in California.
 - Aliens who have made legal declaration to become citizens of the U.S. must present a U.S. Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization Form N-315, authenticated by a Federal District Court Officer
- Applicants without prior military service, who have specialized skills and education, may be enlisted or appointed with the approval of Headquarters, California State Military Reserve
- Applicants must have demonstrated understanding and proficiency in the English language
- Applicants must be a high school graduate or have passed the GED test
- Applicants must be medically qualified.

MEMBERSHIP INELIGIBILITY:

Applicants ineligible for enlistment or appointment include:

- Convicted felons
- Persons adjudged a youthful offender
- Persons on parole or probation
- Individuals with a RE-4 reenlistment code on their DD 214
- Persons with prior service whose discharge was other than "Honorable."
- Persons adjudged as a security risk
- Conscientious objectors
- Persons not meeting current height/weight standards (CA SMR Reg 600-9)
- Active members of any component of the U.S. Armed Forces
- Individuals convicted of offenses involving moral turpitude
- Individuals with significant medical disqualifications (i.e. diabetes, epilepsy, etc.)

Individuals receiving medical disability annuity. (Contact SMR Headquarters for percentage allowances.)

Persons required to register for the Selective Service, but have failed to do so.

These are the Minimum Enlisted Requirements:

- 18 years of age
- U.S. Citizen or applied for citizenship
- California Resident
- Meet Height and Weight Requirements
- Must be medically qualified
- Proficiency in the English language
- Currently possess High School Diploma or GED

These are the Minimum Requirements to be admitted into the CSMR as an Officer:

- Minimum 21 year of age
- U.S. Citizen
- BA/BS Degree
- Special Branch Officers must have the appropriate degree for their profession
- Meet Height and Weight Requirements
- Must be medically qualified
- Prior commissioned military service – Federal or CSMR with honorable service
- Officer Candidate School graduates
- ROTC graduates
- Special Branch Officers (Direct Commission) Chaplain, JAG, Medical

CSMR Height and Weight Standards

	Male	Female
HEIGHT (inches)		WEIGHT (pounds)
58		128
59		132
60	156	136
61	161	140
62	165	145
63	170	149
64	175	153
65	180	157
66	185	162
67	191	166
68	197	171
69	203	175
70	210	180
71	218	185
72	223	190
73	229	
74	235	
75	241	
76	246	
77	252	
78	258	
79	262	